

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01598 01 OF 02 010125Z

64

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 1598

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SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE: APPRAISAL OF UN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (STSC)

1. SUMMARY: MAJOR FEATURES OF REPORT ON STSC'S SESSION INCLUDE (1) RECOMMENDATION FOR STUDIES OF TECHNICAL, ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF VARIOUS POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL REMOTE SENSING DATA CENTERS; (2) APPROVAL OF UN SPACE APPLICATIONS PROGRAM FOR 1975 WITH EXPERT FUNDED AT ABOUT SAME LEVEL AS 1974 PROGRAM; (3) DECISION TO SEEK MEMBERS' VIEWS CONCERNING POSSIBLE SECOND UN CONFERENCE ON SPACE APPLICATIONS; (4) RECOMMENDATION THAT QUESTIONNAIRE ON SPACE APPLICATIONS NEEDS BE SENT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, WITHOUT AGREED SET OF QUESTIONS; AND (5) REFLECTION OF DIFFERING VIEWS ON DESIRABILITY OF STSC FORMING WORKING GROUPS OR OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES TO TAKE UP SPECIFIC MATTERS WITHIN SUBCOMMITTEE'S OVERALL PURVIEW. END SUMMARY

2. DETAILS. STSC ENDED ITS ELEVENTH SESSION AFTERNOON APR 26 WITH ADOPTION OF REPORT. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL PARTS OF REPORT OCCASIONED PROLONGED DEBATE, DIFFERENCES AMONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01598 01 OF 02 010125Z

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS MANIFESTED THEMSELVES IN ESSENTIALLY

LOW-KEY MANNER AND ATMOSPHERE REMAINED GENERALLY ACCOMMODATING. USDEL CONSIDERS REPORT CONSONANT WITH BASIC USG INTERESTS. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

3. REMOTE SENSING: STSC COMMENDED WORKING GROUP ON REMOTE SENSING FOR ASSESSING CURRENT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, FACILITATING UNDERSTANDING OF ITS POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND PROMOTING ITS OPTIMUM UTILIZATION. STSC STATED VIEW THAT WG'S "IMPORTANT WORK" SHOULD BE CARRIED ON IN WAY TO BE DECIDED BY OSC AND "RECOGNIZED THAT FURTHER STUDY OF ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL MATTERS SHOULD PROGRESS TOGETHER WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF REMOTE SENSING." (BRAZILIANS, WHO DEMANDED LANGUAGE ALONG THESE LINES, EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMED MAKING AGREEMENT TO ORGANIZATIONAL-FINANCIAL STUDIES CONDITIONAL ON PROGRESS OF LEGAL SIDE; THIS UNDERSTANDING WAS MADE MATTER OF RECORD BY CHAIRMAN OF DRAFTING GROUP WHICH PREPARED CHAPTER OF REPORT.) REGARDING REMOTE SENSING ASPECTS FALLING WITHIN ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, STSC RECOMMENDED COMMISSIONING SERIES OF STUDIES BY SYG, IN COOPERATION WITH INTERESTED SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WHERE APPROPRIATE, AND COVERING: (A) SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE COST EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES; (B) ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL CENTER UNDER UN AUSPICES. STUDY SHOULD ALSO COVER POSSIBLE NEED FOR INFORMATION COLLECTION IN CERTAIN SPECIFIC FIELDS, E.G., MONITORING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT AND ASSESSING GLOBAL FOOD PRODUCTION, AND TAKE POTENTIAL DATA SOURCES INTO ACCOUNT. (C) ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING ONE OR MORE INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL DATA STORAGE AND DISSEMINATION CENTERS UNDER UN AUSPICES, AND OF INCLUDING RECEPTION FACILITIES IN SUCH CENTERS, AGAIN WITH POTENTIAL DATA SOURCES TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. (D) ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ATTACHING EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING FACILITIES TO CENTERS REFERRED TO IN (C). (E) AS PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT, ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS OF FUTURE SPACE SEGMENT FOR GLOBAL COVERAGE BY JOINT INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISE, OPERATED, OWNED AND FINANCED BY INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION (EG, A LA INTELSAT) OR UNDER UN AUSPICES.

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01598 01 OF 02 010125Z

4. COMMENT: DEL CONSIDERS ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS GENERALLY ADVANTAGEOUS OUTCOME OF STSC'S CONSIDERATION OF WGRS REPORT. AT LEAST AS REGARDS REMOTE SENSING ASPECTS WITHIN SUBCOMMITTEE'S PURVIEW, FOCUS REMAINS ON PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND STUDIES COULD PRODUCE USEFUL NEW DEGREE OF SPECIFICITY FOR UN'S CONTINUING EXPLORATION OF POSSIBLE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF VARIOUS REMOTE SENSING ACTIVITIES. LEGAL ISSUES RELATING TO REMOTE SENSING WERE NOT SUBJECT OF PROLONGED

AND EVEN ACRIMONIOUS DISCUSSION AS WAS CASE IN THE PAST TWO OR THREE STSC MEETINGS. DELEGATES ASSUMED REMOTE SENSING WOULD BE HIGH PRIORITY ISSUE ON LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA IN 1975 AND HENCE STSC COULD DIRECT ITS FULL ATTENTION TO NON-LEGAL ISSUES. BUT AS NOTED ABOVE, BRAZILIANS SUCCEEDED IN ASSOCIATING ORGANIZATIONAL STUDIES AND CONSIDERATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS. END COMMENT.

5. UN SPACE APPLICATIONS PROGRAM: STSC APPROVED "SUBSTANCE" OF PROGRAM PROPOSED BY EXPERT FOR 1975 "WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT EXPERT WOULD SEEK ALL POSSIBLE WAYS TO CONDUCT PROGRAM WITHIN SAME FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS" AS 1974 PROGRAM, I.E., \$87,000. INDIA AND ROMANIA WANTED TO ADD LANGUAGE INDICATING SOME DELS REGARDED FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND CONTENTS OF PROGRAM INADEQUATE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' NEEDS; INDIA SPECIFIED ITS VIEW THAT EXPERT'S BUDGET SHOULD BE AT LEAST \$130,000 (AMOUNT ORIGINALLY PROPOSED FOR 1974). USSR MAINTAINED THAT \$87,000 WAS SUFFICIENT AND, SUPPORTED BY US AND OTHERS, ASKED THAT REPORT REFLECT SOME DELS' VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAM.

6. COMMENT: IF ALL OF RECOMMENDED \$87,000 SPENT IN 1975, EXPERT'S OVERALL COST FOR 1974-75 WOULD EXCEED BUDGET BY \$3,000. USDEL BELIEVES THIS ACCEPTABLE IN LIGHT OF POSSIBILITIES FOR LATER REVIEW, AND PARTICULARLY SINCE STSC CUT PROPOSED 1975 PROGRAM BACK FROM \$130,000 INDIANS WANTED. ALSO, \$87,000 FIGURE UNDERSTOOD TO ENCOMPASS CARRYOVER OF \$17,000 UNEXPENDED FUNDS FROM 1974 PROGRAM. END COMMENT.

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01598 02 OF 02 010134Z

64

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7. PRIOR TO STSC CONSIDERATION OF SPACE APPLICATIONS PROGRAM USDEL CONSULTED WITH JAPANESE AND CONVEYED CONTENTS OF STATE 79445. JAPANESE INDICATED THEY UNDERSTOOD RATIONALE FOR US VIEWS ON OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS DIVISION, AND IN STSC DISCUSSION DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF EXPANDING OSAD (NOR DID ANY OTHER DEL). FOCUS OF DEBATE WAS ENTIRELY ON ADEQUACY OF EXPERT'S PROGRAM AND BUDGETARY SUPPORT.

8. POSSIBLE SECOND UN CONFERENCE ON SPACE APPLICATIONS: REPORT DEFERRED CONSIDERATION OF EXPERT'S PROPOSAL FOR SUCH CONFERENCE TO 1975 SUBCOMMITTEE SESSION. PROPOSAL WILL BE EXAMINED IN TERMS OF "NEED, PURPOSE, TIMING, LOCATION, ORGANIZATION, AND COST OF ANY SUCH CONFERENCE." REPORT ASKED SYG TO OBTAIN VIEWS OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ON THESE QUESTIONS AND TO PREPARE REPORT ON RESULTS BY DECEMBER 1974.

9. QUESTIONNAIRE ON SPACE APPLICATIONS: INDIAN REP SUBMITTED DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONCERNING THEIR PERCEIVED NEEDS IN SPACE APPLICATIONS FIELD. SEVERAL OTHER DELS COSPONSORED TEXT. SOVIETS, HOWEVER, INSISTED ON MORE TIME TO EXAMINE DRAFT BEFORE ACCEPTING IT, EFFECTIVELY BLOCKING STSC ENDORSEMENT. FINAL REPORT RECOMMENDED ASKING SYG TO PREPARE REPORT ON DEVELOPING COUNTRY NEEDS IN SPACE APPLICATIONS

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01598 02 OF 02 010134Z

AREA, ADDING THAT HE "SHOULD OBTAIN" VIEWS OF MEMBER STATES THROUGH "APPROPRIATE QUESTIONNAIRE." REPORT INVITED INTERESTED DELEGATIONS TO DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CONSIDERATION BY OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE AT ITS JULY 1974 SESSION. INDIAN DRAFT TEXT APPENDED TO REPORT.

10. WORKING GROUPS AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES: LENGTHY LAST-MINUTE DEBATE AROSE OVER QUESTION OF FORMING WORKING GROUP OR OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC TOPICS WITHIN SUBCOMMITTEE'S OVERALL COMPETENCE. MAJOR ANTAGONISTS WERE USSR, WHICH APPARENTLY HAD DECIDED SUCH GROUP, ESPECIALLY REMOTE SENSING WG, WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO ITS FUTURE POLICY OBJECTIVES, AND SWEDEN, WHICH DECLARED WORKING GROUPS HAD DONE "EXTREMELY USEFUL WORK" IN PAST AND WAS AGAINST ANY MOVE TO DISSOLVE THEM. BRAZIL AND OTHERS SUPPORTED SOVS AS GENERAL PRINCIPLE, POINTING TO PROLIFERATION OF MEETINGS OF OSC, AND SUBSIDIARIES IN PAST TWO YEARS WITH RESULTING PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY FACED BY SOME MEMBERS IN STAFFING DELEGATIONS. CONSENSUS ON ISSUE PROVED UNATTAINABLE AND REPORT NOTED DIFFERENT VIEWS, WITH FULL REFLECT-

ION OF POSITION OF THOSE DELS (AMONG THEM SWEDEN, US AND UK)
WHICH FAVORED KEEPING OPTION OPEN OF CONVENING WORKING
GROUPS WHEN DEEMED DESIRABLE.

11. FUTURE SESSIONS: REPORT PROPOSES NEXT STSC SESSION FOR
APRIL-MAY 1975, WITH CHOICE BETWEEN TWO AND THREE WEEK SESSION
LEFT OPEN. AUSTRIANS DID NOT MAKE ANY PROPOSAL CONCERNING
VENUE; PRESUMABLY INNSBRUCK INVITATION STILL UNDER CONSIDERA-
TION IN VIENNA. INVITATION COULD BE ISSUED AT PARENT COMMITTEE
WHICH IN ANY CASE WILL MAKE FIRM RECOMMENDATION REGARDING STSC
SCHEDULE.
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